

Applicant : Burrell et al
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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2003, Applicants have amended claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 18 and 20-22, cancelled claims 1, 9, 17 and 19, and added claims 23-26. Claims 3, 5-8, 10-16, 18 and 20-26 are presented for examination.

The Examiner rejected previously pending claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants do not concede that this rejection is appropriate. Nonetheless, as amended, the claims require the metal(s) to have sufficient atomic disorder so that the metal(s) can be released on a sustainable basis. Applicants believe this limitation obviates the rejection, and therefore Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The Examiner rejected previously pending claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Lorina. Applicants do not concede that this rejection is appropriate. Nonetheless, as amended, the claims require the metal(s) to have sufficient atomic disorder so that the metal(s) can be released on a sustainable basis. Lorina does not disclose such a metal. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.